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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE
10 PARKS ROAD
OXFORD

RADNOR COUNTY COUNCIL

(EDUCATION COMMITTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

1946.

F. J. H. CRAWFORD, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

W. R. Crowe, Printer, Presteigne.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
RADNORSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Report on the work of the School Health Service in Radnorshire for the year 1946, which relates to a period before I took up duty as School Medical Officer.

Dr. Dilys Owen continued as Acting School Medical Officer until September 1946. Dr. Jones-Davies then returned from war service, but resigned and terminated his appointment with the authority at the end of the year.

Miss Eileen Rich who had been appointed by the Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire Education Committees in 1945 as School Dental Officer in both counties, took up whole time duty as School Dental Officer for Radnorshire in October 1946.

During the year the health of the school population was most satisfactory and there were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease. At the same time the meals in schools scheme was further developed and during the year milk under the milk in schools scheme was provided free of charge to every child willing to take it. These schemes undoubtedly make a notable contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the health of the children concerned.

Members of the Education Committee continued to give sympathetic support to the work of the School Health Service and the Nurses and Clerical staff of the Service continued their devoted and untiring efforts.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
F. J. H. CRAWFORD,
School Medical Officer.

Public Health Department,
County Buildings,
LLANDRINDOD WELLS,

Radnorshire County Council.

Education Committee.

Annual Report for 1946 of the School Medical Officer.

INTRODUCTION.

The following Table shows the number of Primary and Secondary School Children in the various Schools and the average attendance at the end of the first quarter of 1946.

Name of School.	Average No. on Books.	Average Attendance.
Abbeycwmhir	21	20
Bwlchysarnau	19	16
Aberedw	16	15
Beguildy	28	24
Crugybyddar	13	10
Bleddfa	17	16
Boughrood	32	28
Clyro	36	27
Howey	40	35
Pencerrig	39	37
Evancoyd	31	27
Gladestry	37	31
Ffynnongynydd	27	24
Franksbridge	37	30
Heyope	14	10
Knighton	183	154
Glan Ithon	25	21
Llanbadarnfawr	55	46
Llaithddu	23	17
Painscastle	37	32
Llanbister	36	30
Carried forward	766	550

Brought forward	766	550
Llanbister Cantal	18	14
Llandegley	27	24
Llandewy	49	38
Llandilo Graban	29	25
Llandrindod Wells C.E.	117	96
Llandrindod Wells Cl.	195	157
Llanelwedd	25	20
Llanfihangel-Rhydithon	38	30
Llangunllo	50	39
Cwmdauddwr	88	76
Llansaintffraed	12	10
Llanyre	75	64
Llowes	16	14
Nantmel C.E.	33	24
Nantmel Gaufron	12	11
Nantmel St. Mark's	17	12
Newchurch	24	18
New Radnor	71	54
Norton	20	19
Old Radnor	57	45
Presteigne Cl.	63	58
Presteigne C.E.	86	76
Rhayader	60	52
Lower Llanedw	17	14
St. Harmon's	28	21
Nantgwyn	26	20
Stanage	17	13
Whitton	47	41
Total Primary Schools	2083	1735
Llandrindod Wells Secondary	325	288
Presteigne Secondary	152	135
Total Secondary Schools	477	323
Total School Population of County ...	2560	2158

VISITS BY SCHOOL NURSES.

The following visits have been made by the School Nurses during the Year 1946 :—

First visits to Schools for Cleanliness	234
Re-visits to Schools for Cleanliness	173
Visits to Homes for Cleanliness	353
Following-up visits for Physical Defects	2014
Visits to Schools for Infectious and Contagious Diseases	326
Visits to Homes for Infectious Diseases	285
Visits to Homes for Contagious Diseases	407
	3792

EYE CLINICS.

During the year an Eye Clinic was held at the County Buildings, Llandrindod Wells, on 16th April, 1946. The Oculist attending was Dr. F. A. Anderson of Shrewsbury.

Thirty-four children attended the Clinic. The Oculist prescribed spectacles or new lenses for 18 Children.

INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 2 schools were closed by the School Medical Officer, under Article 45 (b) of the code, on account of Whooping Cough and Influenza.

Under Article 53 (b), certificates of exclusion were granted in respect of children suffering from infectious and contagious diseases as follows :—

Infectious Diseases—Chicken Pox 21 ; Whooping Cough 35 ; Measles 16 ; Scarlet Fever 5 ; and Mumps 13.

Contagious Diseases—Scabies 11 ; Impetigo 12 ; and Ringworm 3.

NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS.

Operations were performed under the Local Education Authority's Scheme and on 77 children who were suffering from Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.

65 Operations were carried out at the Llandrindod Wells Hospital, 8 at theVictoria Cottage Hospital, Kington, 3 at the Cottage Hospital, Builth Wells, and 1 at the Leominster and District Hospital.

DENTAL SERVICE.

Miss Eileen Rich, L.D.S. (Bristol) was appointed permanent whole-time School Dental Officer for the County as from 8th October, 1946.

The School Dental Officer's report is as follows :—

Report of School Dental Officer.

During the year under review, the period from the 6th June to the 2nd November was devoted to treatment of children in certain parts of Montgomeryshire by arrangement with the Education Committee there. After the latter date, such arrangements terminated and the School Dental Officer now undertakes whole time duty in Radnorshire. During 1946, 1,490 children were examined, 1,135 were recommended for treatment and of these 720 were actually treated by me. The consent rate, that is, the percentage of parents accepting treatment for their children under the Education Committee Scheme, is thus seen to be 63. In most schools the acceptance rate was between 70 and 80, but a few of the small schools having a low acceptance rate brought down the rate for the County as a whole.

The general condition of the children's teeth varied considerably in different districts and my records show that the most isolated schools had, on the whole, the best formation and arrangement of teeth, although I should not like to say that this was due to special care of the teeth by the parents or children concerned. It might be due to a more natural diet than is found in the towns and also to the varying types of water supply which are mainly from wells and springs. Such children moreover consume fewer sweets and biscuits than children living near shops and this causes less damage to the teeth. Whatever the cause, I found that children in the more remote rural areas more commonly showed an even wearing down of the milk teeth and among older children the molar teeth exhibited shallow fissures and absence of pits. Such teeth may be regarded as of ideal structure.

There is, however, little doubt that the milk in schools and meals in schools schemes had a beneficial effect on the teeth of children throughout the County.

Statistics of my work in the County show that the saving of permanent teeth was high compared with the extraction of such teeth and although there were some cases of prejudice against fillings, the majority of parents welcomed the saving of teeth whenever this was possible. Fillings in baby teeth have not been so popular but I have encouraged the saving of such teeth. As a result, the idea is gradually gaining acceptance.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

During the year 1 School Child was treated in the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopædic Hospital; he suffered from Congenital elevation of Scapula.

Particulars of attendances at the After-Care Centres are as follows:—

Centre.	New Cases.	Attendances.	Old Cases.	Attendances.
Llandrindod Wells	12	14	29	46
Newtown	–	–	2	3
Craven Arms	–	–	2	2
Leominster	–	–	2	3
Ludlow	–	–	1	2
	12	14	36	56

TABLE I.

Medical Inspections of Pupils Attending maintained Primary & Secondary Schools.

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups—

Entrants	...	221
Second Age Group	...	231
Third Age Group	...	156
Total	...	608

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections 540

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Pupils Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups up to 31st December, 1946.

Age Groups.	Number of children Inspected.	A. Excellent.		B. Normal.		C. Slightly sub-normal.		D. Bad.	
		No.	Per centage	No.	Per centage	No.	Per centage	No.	Per cent.
Entrants ...	221	25	11·3	186	84·2	10	4·5	—	—
2nd Age Group	231	19	8·2	205	88·8	7	3·0	—	—
3rd Age Group	156	26	16·7	126	80·8	4	2·5	—	—
Other Periodic Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	608	70	11·5	517	85·0	21	3·5	—	—

TABLE III.

(A) BLIND CHILDREN.

Name.	Age.	Address.	At Primary or Secondary Schools.	At an Institution other than a special school.	At no School or Institution.
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

(B) DEAF CHILDREN.

Name.	Age.	Address.	At Primary or Secondary Schools.	At an Institution other than a special school	At no School or Institution.
Kenneth Stanley *Jones	7 yrs.	Post Office, Glascwm, nr. Builth Wells	Nil.	1	Nil.

*Admitted to Royal Cambrian Institution on 17th June, 1946.

TABLE IV.

DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

Defect or Disease.	No. of Defects dealt with			No. of children for whom spectacles were			
				Prescribed (1)		Obtained (2)	
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	34	—	34	18	—	18	—
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
	34	—	34	18	—	18	—

TABLE V.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist:—

(a) Routine Age Groups	1490
(b) Specials	—
TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	1490

(2)	Number found to require treatment	1135
(3)	Number actually treated	720
(4)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	1076

(5) Half-days devoted to:—

Inspection	54
Treatment	175
Total	229

(6) Fillings:—

Permanent Teeth	391
Temporary Teeth	80
Total	471

(7) Extractions:—

Permanent Teeth	117
Temporary Teeth	615
Total	732

(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions —

(9) Other Operations:—

Permanent Teeth	31
Temporary Teeth	4
Total	35

TABLE VI.

Uncleanliness and Verminous Condition.

(1)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by School Nurses	5
(2)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	5,393
(3)	Number of individual children found unclean	216
(4)	Number of individual children cleansed under Section 54 (2) & (3) of the Education Act, 1944	—